

- 6 -

Application No. 09/802,834
Amendment dated April 24, 2006
Reply to Office Action of January 24, 2006

- REMARKS/ARGUMENTS -

Claims 1 to 18, 21, and 22 remain in the application.

Claims 10 to 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 122, second paragraph, because the expression "in a preassembled state" is unclear.

The above-mentioned expression has been removed from claims 10 to 18.

Claims 1, 2, 5 and 7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hall et al.

Reconsideration is expected on the following grounds.

Hall et al.'s lower shaft 12 and intermediate shaft 17 extend above ground level. These elements cannot be viewed as an inground footing. Furthermore, the lower shaft 12 only receives the lower end portion of the intermediate shaft 17. Also, connector 18 extends transversally through the upper end of the intermediate shaft 17 only. Connector 18 is not axially oriented and is not received in the lower shaft 12. The connector 18 also lacks an upper end extending axially above the intermediate shaft 17 into the upper shaft segment 20.

In view of the foregoing, independent claim 1, and the claims depending thereon, are clearly patentable over Hall et al.

Claims 1 and 2 were also rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Aberle.

Reconsideration is expected on the following grounds.

Aberle's extension tube 30 only receives a lower end portion 28 of the elongated body portion 12. Furthermore, Aberle's post engaging mechanism 58 is only received at the upper end portion of the elongated body portion 12. The post engaging mechanism 58 is adapted to releasably engage the outer surface of post segment 16.

In view of the foregoing, claim 1 and the claims depending thereon, are clearly patentable over Aberle.

- 7 -

Application No. 09/802,834
Amendment dated April 24, 2006
Reply to Office Action of January 24, 2006

Claims 10, 11, 12 and 14 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Krinner. Krinner clearly lacks any connector having a lower end portion received into a socket member in an outer sleeve and an upper end extending axially outwardly from the socket member. Krinner's pole 4 is received in the tubular section 6 and held therein by annular member 18.

In view of the foregoing, independent claim 10, and the claims depending thereon, are clearly patentable over Krinner.

Claims 10, 11, 14, 15 and 16 were also rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Connors.

Reconsideration is expected on the following grounds.

Connors' post is provided at one or more points therein with a core 7 provided in the form of a hollow rectangular tube designed to fit snugly between the post members 1 and 2. The core elements 7 are bolted to the post structure by means of bolts 9.

The core elements 7 do not axially receive any connector for mounting a post segment to a footing.

In view of the foregoing, independent claim 10, and the claims depending thereon, are clearly patentable over Connors.

The remaining dependent claims are also believed to be patentable, at least in view of their dependency on either one of independent claims 1 and 10.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully deemed that the present claims are in condition for allowance.

- 8 -

Application No. 09/802,834
Amendment dated April 24, 2006
Reply to Office Action of January 24, 2006

Should there be any questions concerning this amendment or the application in general, the Examiner is respectfully urged to telephone the undersigned so that prosecution of this application can be expedited.


Respectfully submitted,

Jean LAPOINTE et al.

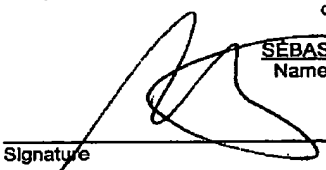
By:

April 24, 2006

Date


Sébastien CLARK, Registration No. 56,651
Agent of Record
OGILVY RENAULT LLP
1981 McGill College Avenue, #1600
Montreal, Quebec, Canada H3A 2Y3
Tel.: (514) 847-4259

Application No. 09/802,834
Amendment dated April 24, 2006
Reply to Office Action of January 24, 2006

CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION	
I hereby certify that this paper is being facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on the date shown below.	
	<u>SEBASTIEN CLARK, Reg. No. 56,651</u> Name of person signing certification
Signature	April 24, 2006 Date